

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04476 211123Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-07
OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 /116 W
-----070023 211127Z /11

O R 230852Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4355
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS LONDON 04476

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS TIES U.S. SPENT FUEL APPROVAL TO
WINDSCALE

REF: LONDON 3894

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1. AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S "FINANCIAL TIMES" BY LYNTON
MCLAIN, IS ENTITLED "U.S. BACKS NUCLEAR FUEL PLAN". IT
STATES THAT BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LIMITED (BNFL) HAS
RECEIVED PERMISSION TO REPROCESS U.S. ORIGIN FUEL AT
WINDSCALE, THAT THE SHIPMENTS WILL ARRIVE "WITHIN A FEW
MONTHS", AND THAT THE FUEL WILL REMAIN AT WINDSCALE FOR
AT LEAST TEN YEARS UNTIL THE REPROCESSING EXPANSION IS

COMPLETED. THE SHIPMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED AS 26 TONS FROM THE SPANISH SANTA MARIA DE GARONA REACTOR, SIX TONS FROM THE SPANISH ZORITA REACTOR, AND L6 TONS FROM THE TSURUGA REACTOR IN JAPAN. IT ADDS THAT FRANCE HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO REPROCESS U.S. ORIGIN FUEL AT LAHAGUE FROM THE MUHLEBERG REACTOR IN SWITZERLAND.

2. THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT THE U.S. APPROVALS WERE NOT UNEXPECTED SINCE DELIVERY TO BRITAIN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AGREED BETWEEN BNFL AND JAPAN AND SPAIN. IT STATED, "(BNFL) YESTERDAY ATTEMPTED TO LINK THE APPROVAL BY THE U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY WITH RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PARKER COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EMBARK ON A 600 MILLION POUND EXPANSION OF REPROCESSING FACILITIES AT WINDSCALE. THE LATEST DELIVERIES, FOR WHICH THERE IS AT PRESENT NO SPARE PROCESSING CAPACITY AT WINDSCALE, POINT TO THE NEED FOR THE EXTRA PLANT. BUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IS UNCONNECTED WITH MR. JUSTICE PARKER'S APPROVAL OF THE COMPANY'S EXPANSION."

3. A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN TODAY'S "GUARDIAN" BY CHARLES COOK NOTES THAT THE PARKER REPORT WAS PUBLISHED MARCH 6 AND PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ACT ON MARCH L0. IT SAYS THE PREVIOUS DAY THE DEPT. OF ENERGY HAD SIGNED THREE APPROVAL FORMS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SPENT FUEL TRANSFERS FROM SPAIN TO BRITAIN AND FROM SWITZERLAND TO FRANCE. THEN IT STATES, "THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS ALLOWED THE SHIPMENTS TO GO AHEAD AFTER HAVING AMPLE TIME TO STUDY THE PARKER REPORT IS SEEN BY BNFL AS VINDICATION OF ITS CLAIMS DURING THE PUBLIC INQUIRY THAT ITS PLANS WOULD NOT GO AGAINST THE CARTER ANTI-PROLIFERATION INITIATIVE."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON04476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0144
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780330/aaaaayvy.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe0938be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 3894
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3218875
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PRESS TIES U.S. SPENT FUEL APPROVAL TO WINDSCALE
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK, US, FINANCIAL TIMES
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe0938be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014